

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (original): A method of producing particles using supercritical fluid (SCF) comprising:

providing a source of SCF;

dissolving at least one solute material and at least one growth retardant compound in the SCF to form an SCF solution, wherein the growth retardant compound includes at least one functional group or portion that is SCF-philic and at least one functional group or portion that is SCF-phobic or solute material-philic; and

expanding SCF solution across a pressure drop below the critical pressure of the SCF whereby the SCF decompresses and causes supersaturation and nucleation of particles comprising the solute material, said particles having a smaller size and a reduced amount of agglomeration than if no growth retardant compound was present.

Claim 16 (original): The method according to claim 15 wherein the SCF is supercritical carbon dioxide.

Claim 17 (original): The method according to claim 16 wherein the growth retardant compound is selected from the group consisting of sugar acetates, fluorocarbons and block copolymers.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein the block copolymer is comprised of polymer blocks selected from the group consisting of polypropylene oxide, poly methacrylic acid (PMMA), poly acrylic acid (PAA), poly vinyl acetate (PVA) and polyethylene oxide (PEO).

Claim 19 (original): The method according to claim 15 wherein the solute material is selected from the group consisting of medicinal agents, biologically active materials, sugars, viral materials, diagnostic aids, nutritional materials, proteins, peptides, animal extracts, plant extracts and combinations thereof.

Claim 20 (original): The method according to claim 19 wherein the solution further comprises a second solute material selected from the group consisting of polymers, fillers, disintegrants, binders, solubilizers, excipients, and combinations thereof. In particular, the matrix materials can be, for example, polysaccharides, polyesters, polyethers, polyanhydrides, polyglycolides (PLGA), polylactic acids (PLA), polycaprolactones (PCL), polyethylene glycols (PEG), polypeptides and combinations thereof.

Claim 21 (original): The method according to claim 20 wherein the particles have an average particle size of less than 10 micron and more than 300 nm.